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(54) **Interactive terminal for television delivery system**

(57) The invention relates to apparatus and methods for upgrading a set top terminal (220) for use with a cable television program delivery system (200). A hardware upgrade unit (100) or expansion card (100) is connected to a set top terminal (220) to enhance the functionality of the set top terminal (220) and to allow the set top terminal (220) to provide interactive services to a subscriber. The hardware upgrade (100) includes an interface to the set top terminal (220), interactive software (106), and a microprocessor (104). The hardware upgrade (100) enables the set top terminal (220) to receive and process data in a vertical blanking interval or in a program control information signal, so as to provide context sensitive interactivity using overlay menus to accompany and complement television programming. In this way, quizzes, facts, geographical information, product information, or more detailed information, for example, may be provided. The hardware upgrade (100) may optionally include a modem (120) for access to interactive services or databases outside of the cable television program delivery system (200). The hardware upgrade (100) may optionally include a CD-ROM (122), on which data for interactive interaction is stored.

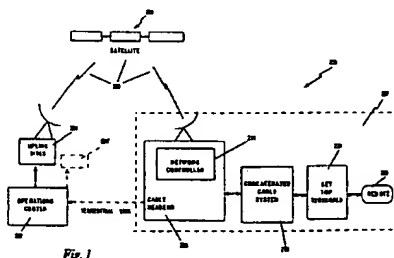


Fig. 1